

Message Text

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11

ACTION PM-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 SS-20 CPR-02 A-01 MED-03 INR-10

CIAE-00 NSC-07 RSC-01 DRC-01 /078 W

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R 191539Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9435

INFO SECNAV

CNO

NNMC BETHESDA

USCINCEUR

CINCUSNAVEUR

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AEMR PO

SUBJ: MEDICAL CARE - VICA ADMIRAL MONETIRO DE BARROS

REF: A-64 JAN 5, 1972

1. MINISTER OF MARINE CRESPO HAS REQUESTED THROUGH NAVAL ATTACHE, EMBASSY'S ASSISTANCE IN ARRANGING MEDICAL TREATMENT AT BETHESDA NAVAL HOSPITAL FOR VADM JAIME DE AZEVEDO MONTEIRO DE BARROS, CHIEF OF STAFF TO MINISTER OF MARINE. ACCORDING MINISTER, VADM MONTEIRO DE BARROS IS SUFFERING FROM A CANCER IN THE CHEST CAVITY CONFIRMED BY BIOPSY. THERE IS APPARENTLY DISAGREEMENT ON THE PART OF LOCAL MEDICAL AUTHORITIES AS TO THE EXACT LOCATION AND TYPE OF CANCER, ESSENTIALLY WHETHER IT IS A BRONCHIAL GROWTH OR IN THE LYMPH SYSTEM BETWEEN THE LUNGS.

2. VADM MONTEIRO DE BARROS IS AMBULATORY AND WOULD HAVE NO PROBLEM MAKING THE FLIGHT AND STAYING IN WASHDC FOR WHATEVER TIME IS REQUIRED. THE PROPOSED CARE WOULD ENTAIL NO COST TO THE U.S. GOVERNMENT IN AS MUCH AS THE ADMIRAL WOULD FLY COMMERCIALY, AND PAY WHATEVER COSTS

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MIGHT BE CHARGED BY THE HOSPITAL.

3. PORTUGUESE OFFICIALS CONCERNED BELIEVE THAT LOCAL MEDICAL EXPERTISE IS NOT COMPARABLE WITH THAT OF U.S. DOCTORS IN THIS FIELD. ALSO, WHEN THE NAVAL ATTACHE POINTED OUT THAT THERE WERE SEVERAL U.S. HOSPITALS WHICH SPECIALIZE IN CANCER TREATMENT AND WHICH MIGHT HAVE GREATER EXPERTISE THAN BETHESDA, THE REPLY WAS THAT GREAT CONFIDENCE WAS FELT IN THE ABILITY OF THE NAVY DOCTORS AT BETHESDA AND THAT A NAVAL ATMOSPHERE MIGHT BE PSYCHOLOGICALLY MORE CONDUCTIVE TO THE ADMIRAL'S WELL-BEING. IT IS TO BE NOTED THAT THE NATIONAL NAVAL MEDICAL CENTER AT BETHESDA IS HELD IN GREAT ESTEEM BY THE PORTUGUESE NAVY AS A RESULT OF SERVICES PROVIDED OTHER PORTUGUESE OFFICERS IN PAST.

4. IN VIEW OF THIS PERSONAL REQUEST MADE BY MINISTER CRESPO, AND CRESPO'S IMPORTANCE IN CABINET AND IN PORTUGUESE HIERARCHY, WE BELIEVE THAT U.S. ASSISTANCE TO VADM DE BARROS WILL CLEARLY BENEFIT U.S. INTERESTS IN PORTUGAL. THE AMBASSADOR HAS DETERMINED THAT THIS REQUEST IS SUFFICIENTLY IN THE NATIONAL INTEREST TO MERIT REFERRAL TO THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.
SCOTT

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 APR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974LISBON01502
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740092-1111
From: LISBON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740430/aaaabadj.tel
Line Count: 84
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION PM
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A-64 JAN 5, 1972
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29 MAY 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <07-Aug-2002 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MEDICAL CARE - VICA ADMIRAL MONETIRO DE BARROS
TAGS: AEMR, PO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005